



National Commission on the Future of the Army

2530 Crystal Drive, Zachary Taylor Building, Suite 5000
Arlington, VA 22202

SUBJECT: National Commission on the Future of the Army (NCFA), Operational Sub-Committee minutes for the 21 July 15, Engagement with Japanese Attaché

Date: 21 July 2015

Time: 1400-1500

Location: Center for Strategic and International Studies, 1616 Rhode Island Ave, NW, Washington, DC 20036

Format: Information gathering meeting with senior allied official

Attendees:

COMMISSION PARTICIPANTS: HON Dr. Kathleen Hicks, Mr. Kerry Schindler; MAJ Vinson Morris Alternate Designated Federal Officer (ADFO)

EMBASSY OF JAPAN PARTICIPANTS: Colonel Masashi Yamamoto, Military Attaché, and Mr. Kyosuke Matsumoto, Counselor

Documents Submitted to Commission: None.

Meeting Summary

This discussion with Japan Military Attaché was part of a series of multinational engagements by the Operational subcommittee. The Operational subcommittee plans to meet with representative from 12 allied and partner nations to gain their perspectives on how the United States balances the size and mix of the Army and resources. Additionally, information will be sought from these key allies to help understand their perspectives on how their nation balances national security risk with declining defense resources. The Operational subcommittee is considering how the security interests of the United States and its partners and allies are inextricably linked.

After introductions, the ADFO discussed the requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) and its applicability to the NCFA Operational Subcommittee and explained the Commission's responsibilities. Commissioner Hicks, COL Yamamoto and Mr. Matsumoto discussed the following topics:

1. The importance of Pacific Pathways and regionally aligned forces (RAF) in showing U.S. intentions and resolve to the Region. Joint exercises with the U.S. and other partner nations (Australia, South Korea, etc.) are beneficial to development of the Japanese military.

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2. U.S. forces present in the Republic of South Korea provide a shield for Japan and over the next ten years will help deter a more assertive China and unpredictable North Korea.
3. The Japanese are supportive of short term U.S. rotational presence for exercises but ongoing domestic issues would make additional U.S. forces stationed in Japan difficult.
4. U.S. capabilities of particular interest to Japan: Air Defense Artillery, Surface to Ship Missiles, Airborne Forces, Logistics and Transportation (air and sea for contingencies and movement of ground defense forces).

The meeting ended with COL Yamamoto and Mr. Matsumoto offering to meet for subsequent discussions to ensure the Commission has any information required.